

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GABORO 01795 241358Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8721

S E C R E T GABORONE 1795

NODIS

DEPARTMENT PASS LONDON FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT KHAMA

REF: SECTO 27344

1. TEXT TRANSMITTED IN REFTEL DELIVERED BY CHARGE' TO PRESIDENT KHAMA 1230 HOURS SEPTEMBER 24. AS ALWAYS, HE WAS MOST CORDIAL AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE.

2. FOR THE PRESIDENT, WHO IS USUALLY A VERY QUIET, RESERVED MAN, HIS REACTION WAS ONE OF OBVIOUS PLEASURE AND OPTIMISM. HE NONETHELESS COUNSELLED CAUTION, SAYING WE MUST OF COURSE AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF EVENTS BEFORE REJOICING PREMATURELY. HE WONDERED WHAT "SLIGHT RESERVATIONS" IAN SMITH MIGHT EXPRESS IN HIS ANNOUNCEMENT THIS EVENING, AND HOPED THAT THEY INDEED WOULD BE SLIGHT.

3. HE ALSO EXPRESSED THE THOUGHT THAT NKIOMO WAS MOST PROBABLY THE AFRICAN LEADER BEING THOUGHT OF AS FILLING THE ROLE OF THE NEW CHIEF MINISTER UNDER THE PROPOSED PLAN. IN ANSWER TO CHARGE'S QUESTION, PRESIDENT AID THAT NKOMO WOULD ALSO BE HIS PERSONAL CHOICE, AS HE BELIEVED NKOMO ENJOYED THE MOST BROADLY-BASED SUPPORT, HAD ALREADY STATED HIS POSITION ON A NUMBER OS ISSUES. AND WOULD CERTAINLY BE PREFERABLE TO "THE OTHER EXTREME".

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4. ON SUBJECT OF NAMIBIA, PRESIDENT ASKED IF ANNOUNCED DATE

FOR NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE (PARA 5 OF REFTTEL) WAS SAME AS THAT PREVIOUSLY SET BY SAG, OR IF IT HAD BEEN MOVED FORWARD. CHARGE' SAID HE WAS UNSURE OF THIS POINT, AND THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLELE COULD CLARIFY IT DURING THEIR FORTHCOMING DISCUSSIONS.

5. REQUEST DEPT PASS PORT LOUIS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLELE.

ALBERTI

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE SS PORT LOUIS LONDON
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